

# Maryland Severe Storms Awareness Week March 21st - 25th, 2016



Mon: Flooding Tue: Damaging Winds Wed: Tornadoes Thu: Hail Fri: Lightning

## Be Weather Prepared!

- \* Educate yourself on weather threats.
- \* Ensure you have the means to receive weather warnings.
- \* Have a plan for what you will do and train on your plan.

Visit <http://www.weather.gov/lwx/weatherready> to make your family/school/business safe!

### Monday, March 21st - Flooding



#### Facts:

- Most flood fatalities are the result of people attempting to drive across flooded roadways.
- A *Flash Flood Warning*: Immediate life threatening flooding resulting from excessive rainfall or a dam failure
- A *Flood Warning*: Flooding that is occurring more than 6 hours after the excessive rainfall

#### Safety:

- Never enter an area where water is over a road if it is too deep to see the pavement.!
- Night driving is dangerous during flooding. Your ability to see flooded roads is greatly diminished at night, making it easier to drive into a flooded roadway.

### Tuesday, March 22nd - Damaging Winds

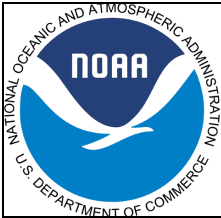
#### Facts:

- Damaging winds cause most of the tree and structure damage during thunderstorms
- A *Severe Thunderstorm Warning* means damaging winds or hail will occur somewhere within the warning area (if not throughout) within 30-60 minutes.
- These microbursts are like 'punches' of wind from the most intense part of the storm, that can reach speeds up to 120 mph!

#### Safety:

- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, or you encounter strong winds, get to a sturdy shelter away from windows!





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## Wednesday, March 23rd - Tornadoes

### Facts:

- Think MD doesn't get them? We have 61 since 2010. Maryland has seen tornadoes ranging from EF0-EF4 in the past 15 years.
- They range in strength from those that knock down trees & strip shingles - to those that cause widespread devastation.
- Tornado Warnings typically only have 5-15 minutes of advance notice before touchdown—sometimes less. Act quickly!

### Safety:

- Go to the lowest floor, in a small interior room or hallway—away from windows!



2002 La Plata, MD tornado over the Chesapeake Bay

## Thursday, March 24th - Hail



### Facts:

- Hail is a ball of ice formed in the extreme turbulence of strong thunderstorms.
- Rain freezes and re-freezes, sometimes allowing the ice to grow as large as the size of softballs—even in Maryland!

### Safety:

- Hail is only formed in strong, dangerous storms. If you witness hail—get indoors!
- The larger the hail, the more dangerous the storm.

## Friday, March 25th - Lightning



### Facts:

- Over 98% of lightning casualties are from people outdoors.
- The most frequent fatalities are from the outer fringes of the storm, outside of the rain area, where people think they are safe.
- Can strike over 10 miles from the rain area!

### Safety:

- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck from a fringe stroke. Get indoors or inside your vehicle!